

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED
11-AFC-3**

TN # 68730

NOV. 30 2012



November 30, 2012

Quail Brush Genco, LLC
Ms. Lori Ziebart
Project Manager
9405 Arrowpoint Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28273

Regarding: **QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT (11-AFC-3), Staff's Data
Requests 96-101**

Dear Ms. Ziebart,

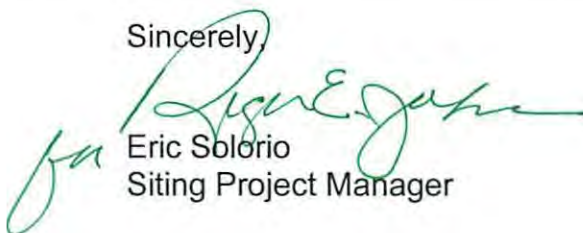
Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission staff requests the information specified in the enclosed data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations, 3) assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts, 4) assess whether the facilities will be constructed and operated in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, and 5) assess potential mitigation measures.

These data requests are being made in the technical area of Alternatives. Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before December 31, 2012.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 20 days of receipt of this request. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 651-0966.

Sincerely,



Eric Solorio
Siting Project Manager

Enclosure (Data Request Packet)
cc: Docket (11-AFC-3)

**QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT
(11-AFC-3)**

Energy Commission Staff's Data Requests 96-101

November 30, 2012

Technical Area: Alternatives

Authors: Emily Capello and Susan Lee

Background

The applicant's Alternatives Analysis,¹ Section 1.1, Project Objectives, revises the project objectives provided in Section 3 of the AFC but does not explain why it has revised the project objectives. The second objective identified in Section 1.1 (but not in Section 3 of the AFC) states that the project must be located on a site that would allow for the plant to be on line by 2014.

The applicant's submittal of SDG&E Request for Offers identifies online dates of May 1 or October 1, 2014, see Product 2 – New Local Generation Projects online in 2010 – 2014.

On November 1, 2012, the San Diego City Council notified the Energy Commission² that on September 24, 2012, the City Council voted unanimously against initiating a process to amend the East Elliot Community Plan to redesignate a portion of the property from Open Space to Industrial.

Data Requests

96 (a) Please explain why the applicant revised the project objectives from those originally provided in Section 3 of the AFC.

(b) Does the applicant expect to meet an online date of May 1, 2014, October 1, 2014, or some other date under the current permitting schedule?

(c) Given the City of San Diego Council decision not to consider redesignation of the proposed Quail Brush site to a compatible land use designation, please explain the revised project objective that states that the project should be located on a site with compatible zoning or a site that "could reasonably be anticipated to have" appropriate zoning.

Background

The applicant's Alternatives Analysis, Section 1.2, Rationale for Selection of Alternative Sites, notes that the screening criteria used to identify alternatives which could potentially meet most of the project objectives included close proximity to necessary infrastructure with capacity to serve the project including an SDG&E substation, a high voltage transmission line and high pressure gas distribution main.

¹ TN-68306

² The City of San Diego Councilmembers Deny the Application of the Quail Brush Energy Generation Project (TN-68582)

Data Request

97. Please explain why close proximity to both an SDG&E substation and a high voltage transmission line would be required for interconnection? Why is it not adequate to be in close proximity to a high voltage transmission line alone?

Background

The applicant's Alternatives Analysis, Section 1.3.3.1, AFC Alternative A, notes that the AFC Alternative A switchyard is currently zoned Residential (RS 1-8) and is within the MHPA and that a zone change and General Plan Amendment would be required for the AFC Alternative A switchyard.

Section 1.3.2, Proposed Site, notes that "The Applicant, SDG&E, and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), have agreed to loop the existing 138 kV line TL 13822 into a new utility switchyard located on the proposed project site with a short generation tie line (gen tie) between the plant switchyard and utility switchyard collocated on the project site."

The existing 138 kV line TL 13822 crosses the AFC Alternative A site.

Data Requests

98. Please clarify why the Alternative A site would not tie into the existing 138 kV line TL 13822 that crosses the Alternative A site given the agreement described between the applicant, SDG&E, and CAISO to use the 138 kV line.

Background

The applicant's Alternatives Analysis, Section 1.2, Rationale for Selection of Alternative Sites, notes that a site must have a minimum of 10 developable acres to allow for construction of the plant.

Section 1.4.1, Alternative Site 1, notes that Alternative Site 1 is a 430- acre site located on multiple parcels within Limited Agriculture, Specific Plan, Single Residential, Park/Open Space and Light Industrial zone districts within unincorporated San Diego County and the City of Santee.

Section 1.4.3, Alternative Site 3, notes that Alternative Site 3 is a 33-acre site located within Rural Residential and Single-Family Residential zone districts in unincorporated San Diego County. It further notes that the Rural Residential zone allows for major impact services and utilities with a major use permit but that the Single-Family Residential zone does not.

Section 1.4.5, Alternative Site 5, notes that the alternative is a 138-acre site with multiple parcels and zone districts.

Data Requests

99. Please provide the following information:

- a. Explain why alternative sites are suggested that are significantly larger than the 10-acre site required for the project and made up of multiple parcels and multiple owners.
- b. Explain the rationale for choosing a 430-acre site comprising multiple parcels with multiple zone districts for Alternative 1. Is there a 10-acre site zoned light industrial available within the larger 430-acre site?
- c. Explain the rationale for choosing a 33-acre site comprising two parcels with two zone districts for Alternative 3. What is the acreage of the Rural Residential parcel?

Background

Section 1.4.1, Alternative Site 1, notes that the shortest direct distance between Alternative Site 1 and the closest substation is 0.5 miles but that this substation does not have capacity to serve the proposed project.

Data Requests

100. What information did the applicant review to confirm that the nearest substation located 0.5 miles from the Alternative Site 1 would not have capacity to serve the proposed project?

Background

Section 1.4.2, Alternative Site 2, notes that the shortest direct distance between Alternative Site 2 and the closest substation is 2.4 miles but does not identify the substation by name.

Section 1.5.5.1, Topography/Engineering Constraints, notes that Alternative Site 2 is located approximately 2.4 miles from the Carlton Hills Substation and that the gen-tie line would extend from the power plant to this substation.

Section 1.5.5.10 states that the Alternative Site 2 would require a different point of interconnection (POI) that would result in an approximate 3-year delay in the schedule and increased costs associated with the CAISO studies.

Data Requests

101. Given that the Alternative Site 2 would tie into the same substation as the proposed project, please explain how the POI would be different and why it would require additional CAISO studies.



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE
QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT**

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-03
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 11/19/2012)

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*indicates change

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Diane L. Scott, declare that on November 30, 2012 I served and filed copies of the attached **QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT (11-FC-03), Staff's Data Requests 96-101**, dated November 30, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/quailbrush/index.html>.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- ☒ Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- ☐ Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses marked **"hard copy required"** or where no e-mail address is provided.

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- ☒ by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail address below (preferred method); **OR**
- ☐ by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT

Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-03

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.ca.gov

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- ☐ Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission


Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel

1516 Ninth Street MS-14

Sacramento, CA 95814

michael.levy@energy.ca.gov

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.


Diane L. Scott
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division